

REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 17, and 20-21 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 18, and 22 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 4-16, 18-19, and 22 are pending.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected independent Claims 1, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Giovannoli, U.S. Patent No. 5,758,328, in view of Walker, U.S. Patent No. 5,794,207, in view of Fedor, U.S. Patent No. 6,785,660, and further in view of Sheth et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,069,242. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has previously stated that “Giovannoli teaches only vendors capable of fulfilling the request requirements are selected by the computerized system, including geographic requirements.” Applicants respectfully disagree. Giovannoli appears merely to state the following in connection with geography:

“Filter conditions may define the class of vendors in terms of geographical location, quantity, language spoken, currency, special conditions of sale, and the like.”
(Giovannoli, Abstract).

In contrast, as amended, Claim 1 recites “determining whether the request includes geographic information” and “in the event that it is determined that the request includes geographic information,” “querying a database of information representing the capabilities of suppliers to deliver goods and services to geographic areas and automatically selecting as potential bidders for an auction those suppliers whose capabilities satisfy at least a portion of the request.” Support for the amendment may be found, without limitation, on page 11 of the Specification. None of the other references cited by the Examiner discloses these limitations, either, whether considered individually or in combination. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable.

Independent Claims 18 and 22 recite limitations similar to Claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons stated above.

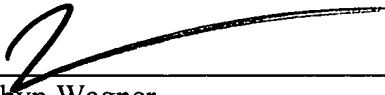
Claims 4-16 and 19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from one of the aforementioned independent claims and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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